



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### West Thornton Weekly Newsletter

15th September 2023

Welcome Back! We hope you had a wonderful summer full of fun and laughter. What a fantastic, positive start to the year West Thornton has had! The children have come back ready to learn, and have shown great enthusiasm for their new year groups and learning. We look forward to sharing our amazing learning, and school updates in future newsletters. This year we have four core priorities, over the coming weeks we look forward to sharing these with you, the first of which you can read below.

#### Priority 1 - Reading

Our first Whole School Priority for 2023/2024 is **Reading**.

We want to ensure that every child has the skills to access a range of texts and read fluently - but arguably even more important, is that they develop a love of reading. Reading is a fundamental life skill and it improves life chances. A wide range of research also shows that reading fluently increases children's confidence and means that they can access other lessons across the curriculum. As a school, this priority will be fundamental to all our work this year.

**CULTIVATE**  
a Love of Reading



#### What can you do to help?

- The most important thing is to read regularly with your children - little and often is best. Even 10 minutes every day makes a huge difference and supports the learning we do in school.
- Share stories and read aloud. You can use books from school, ones you have at home or from the library. Join a library!
- Read everything, everywhere: the names of the bus stops, letters, road signs, menus, magazines, leaflets - it is all useful. We want to immerse our children in print.
- Read in different places
- Model reading yourself

There will be many activities at school to encourage reading for pleasure in the coming weeks and months - please do read the newsletters regularly and keep an eye on the notice boards. For now - a huge thank you to all the parents who are encouraging their children to read - and to complete their reading diaries and bring them into school.

#### Blue Peter Reading Book Club

The Blue Peter Book Club is all about sharing the joy of reading! Each month they'll talk about a different book from the list below and find out your thoughts on it too! They'll also have lots of fun activities, quizzes and cool challenges to try.





# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

It's super easy to join the Blue Peter Book Club – just grab a book from their list (or you could even read a choice of your own) and start reading. Taa daah! You're officially a member of the Blue Peter Book Club! You can share your thoughts with other fans, talk about your favourite books or even send in pictures and selfies!

Although you're welcome to read any book you like, to make things easier they've put together a list of six amazing books for you to try! Have a look below and see which one you're most looking forward to reading!



If this wasn't exciting enough, you can now apply for the brand new Blue Peter Book badge!

Please remember to record your reading in your Reading Records at home - it would be amazing to see some of the comments you are making being based on the strategies you are focusing on in school.

## Curriculum Focus

### Reception

It has been lovely to have all of the new reception children joining us this week. They have been having fun playing with lots of different activities and equipment, such as forming numbers in glitter, building cars using the wooden blocks as well as learning about the rules of the classroom.

They have spent the week completing baseline assessments, looking at matching numeral to quantity, recognising numbers and writing their names. We cannot wait to see all the amazing things they do this year and throughout their time at West Thornton!



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL



### Year One

Year 1 has had an impeccable start to the year and transitioned really well from EYFS. In English, the children have been learning about poetry and looking at features of poems such as rhyme and repetition. They have been exploring their core text 'My shadow is pink' by Scott Stuart and showed great interest in the story.



In maths, the children have been learning how to count forwards and backwards from any number within 10. They also began to add two numbers together, working practically using resources to help them.

In the wider curriculum subjects the children have had lots of fun! In music they were learning the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch. They learnt how to rap and also enjoy the original form of an Old-School Hip Hop song called 'Hey You!' by Joanna Mangona. Furthermore, in Art the children started to acquire a knowledge of the artist 'Rafael Lopez' and his work. They found out facts about the artist and explored his creative art pieces, discussing what mediums they think have been used and what they could identify in each piece of art.



### Year Two

What a start to the new academic year! The children in Year 2 have been busy, busy, busy! In Maths the children have been using a variety of manipulatives to identify and make numbers to 100. This



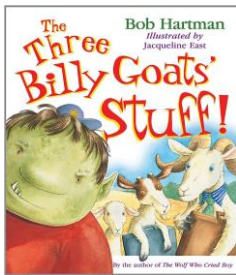


# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

has been the basis for their understanding of 2 digit numbers and place value. Children used dienes to partition numbers into tens and ones and further on in the week went on a number word hunt!

In writing, the children were introduced to their core text "The Three Billy Goats Stuff" which tells the tale of a very unkind troll who gets a very unexpected surprise. The children have really enjoyed hearing this story and have begun to retell it in their own words, ensuring they use adjectives to make their writing interesting and engaging.



In the wider curriculum children have been learning all about materials in science and exploring their environment to find metals, wood, fabric and glass amongst others. Their curiosity peaked when they began to discover some everyday items are made of more than one material! In geography, the children have been learning about the difference between physical and human features of the United Kingdom. They identified these and reasoned about their choices, often finding that some places have



both human and physical features for example a farm where a barn would be human feature but the animals and fields would be physical features. As you can see Year 2 have had a jam packed week of learning!

### Year Three

It has been an extremely action packed first week back in Year 3 and we have loved seeing the children immerse themselves with excitement back into their learning.



In English, the children are currently exploring their new core text 'My little book of Big Freedoms'. The children have been linking the freedoms described in the book to the UN Rights of Children and discussing what each of the freedoms means to them. The children will use these ideas to create their own poems next week. Later in the

week the children looked at the features of poetry and discussed the different types of poems there are. The children read a number of poems and highlighted each of the features they could find.



With our maths lessons, we have been partitioning 2-digit numbers and exploring 3 digit numbers and applying our knowledge to answer reasoning questions. We have had a big push of presentation in our books this week ensuring we are displaying our ethic of excellence in everything we do.

With the wider curriculum the children have immersed themselves in their new science topic 'Light'. The children identified natural and artificial light sources and were able to explain the difference between these. They also carried out their first investigation of the year, looking at objects that are transparent, translucent and opaque. The children discussed what the objects were and their uses.



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Year Four



In English, the children have been introduced to their new core text 'The girl who stole an elephant' by Nizvana Farook. The learning journey was introduced by staging a thief who stole something important that belonged to their class teacher. The children led an investigation and interviewed suspects who may have stolen the item. We then read the first chapter where we were introduced to the fearless character 'Chaya', who stole the queen's jewels from the palace to help her very sick friend. Throughout the week the children looked at Chaya's character and learnt how to empathise with her. They took part in a drama lesson creating a conscience alley exploring different viewpoints on whether 'it is okay to steal'.

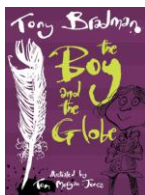
In Maths, the children started their first topic 'place value'. The children identified values of numbers using base 10 and recapping their knowledge of 4 digit numbers - carefully thinking about the place value of each digit. Towards the end of the week the children practised partitioning 4 digit numbers in different ways.

In Art, the children were introduced to our artist focus this half term 'Jill Pello' - whose work is inspired by climate change. The children looked at her work and identified key features. They then organised images to reflect the style of an artist.



### Year Five

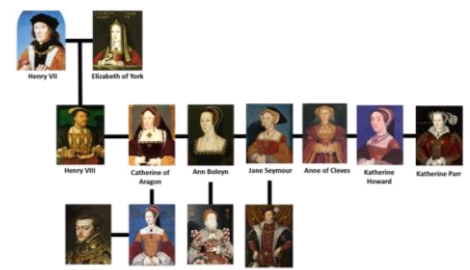
The first full week back has been a busy one! We have enjoyed exploring our new topics and are looking forward to finding out even more.



In English, our core text is "The Boy and Globe". It's a story about an orphan called Toby who finds a gang of thieves and wants to become one of them. It is set in Tudor times and, as you may have guessed from the title, has something to do with Shakespeare! This week, we have been generating "show not tell" phrases and descriptive language ready to have a go at retelling the story from Tony's point of view. Descriptions such as "small claustrophobic alley" and "looming black windows" are already setting the scene!

Maths this week has been about securing and consolidating our fundamental knowledge so that we are ready to tackle the more challenging problems coming our way. We have been looking at place value and at how 4 and 5-digit numbers can change.

History this half term is all things Tudor. This week we have compiled a timeline of the key events that took place during the Tudor times and then created a family tree of Henry VIII's immediate family. This topic ties in with our core text, allowing us to explore even more of the Tudor period.



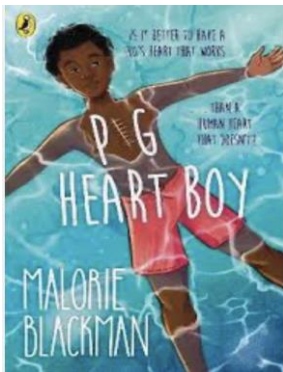


# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

We will also start swimming lessons soon so please make sure that you have returned the letter that went out at Rosecourt Road and look out for the letter just before the end of the half term at Canterbury Road.

### Year Six



This week saw Year 6 students delving deep into the world of place values. With determination, they tackled numbers up to 10,000,000, putting this knowledge into practice through various problem-solving activities. On top of this they worked tremendously hard to complete their baseline assessments all putting in such great effort!

In our writing sessions, the captivating story of Malorie Blackman's "The Pig Heart Boy" took centre stage. Students engaged deeply, drawing connections with the main character and exploring the nuanced relationships presented in the narrative. The richness of their discussions was a testament to their understanding and empathy.

Our week in Science was equally enthralling. We embarked on a study of the circulatory system, blending theoretical learning with hands-on exploration. The highlight was undoubtedly the heart dissection, which provided students with a tangible understanding of this essential body system.



### Reading

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## Community

**BEE  
THANKFUL  
FOR BEES**

**28 SEPTEMBER:**

**MAINS**  
Buzzy Chicken Curry OR  
Buzzy Veggie Curry

**SIDES**  
Rice and Bees (Peas!)  
Watermelon, Apple & Cucumber Salad  
Corn on the Cob

**DESSERT**  
Choco Mallow Cherry Crispy Cake

Bumblebee Conservation Trust



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### **New Intake for Reception Pupils 2024-2025**

I know we have only just returned to school and have welcomed our new Reception pupils to West Thornton but we could not wait to share information with you all about our plans for next year! If you are interested in a place for your child in one of our Reception classes next year then do come along to one of our tours. If you know of any families in the local community who might also be interested then please share these dates and times with them also.

We are offering tours on the following dates and times:

**Thursday 5th October - 3.45pm**

**Thursday 19th October - 5.00pm**

**Thursday 9th November - 9.15am**

**Wednesday 6th December - 10.00am**

To book a tour, please contact the school office. If these dates are not convenient then please contact the office to make alternative arrangements.

### **Message from West Thornton's Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

It was a busy year for the PTA this year, with the relaunch of the PTA, post Covid and being able to host events at both sites.

For those of you that are not aware... the PTA stands for the 'parent teacher Association' an association that is led by us parents and in collaboration with the teachers. We have an executive team based at Canterbury Road and are always looking to expand the team, particularly at Rosecourt Road, so we can increase our presence and be able to do more for both sites. We are asking you to please consider offering some of your time to volunteer on the PTA and help us host some of the great events that we are able to put on for the children.

We are looking forward to hosting a long-awaited movie night for the children and we welcome your feedback and suggestions for other events. Also, we will also be looking for support for the Christmas fair in December. Date to be announced very soon.

The children really enjoy it and the proceeds from these events do get invested back into the school and for our children. Last year, we were pleased to announce that we have been able to contribute towards the year six leaving hoodies and we do have further plans to reinvest back into the school.

From the PTA

If you are considering joining the PTA and would like to find out more information then please contact the school office.





# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Online Safety

Reminder to all parents to be vigilant and aware of the content children are accessing online and those that they may be chatting online to. Games like Roblox offer account controls that let adults restrict how children can interact on the site and the types of games they can play.

### Canterbury Road Recreation Ground



You may be aware of some planned improvements to Canterbury Road Recreation Ground. We have been in touch with an organisation called Trees for Cities who have shared the information below, so that you can have your say!

We'd like to gather your voices on the tree planting designs for Canterbury Road Recreation Ground and Estate, a project in partnership with Croydon Council and Croydon Climate Action.

Please see this [survey link](#) if you're interested in having your say. We'd love to hear from as many people in the local area as possible, to ensure the trees will be enjoyed for generations to come!

This period of consultation ends 24th September at midnight. As part of this project we are also offering schools free tree planting workshops. These are a wonderful opportunity for students to get stuck in, learning practical tree planting skills as well as the wider benefits of urban tree planting on wildlife and our environment. The workshops are reserved on a first come first served basis, so please let us know as soon as possible if you'd like to get involved.

(Information regarding the workshops is available from the office)

### Phrases of the Week



**¡Bienvenidos a todos!** - Welcome back everyone!



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Stars of the Week

YR Ash	YR Oak	YR Pine	YR Willow	
The whole class!	Whole	Whole	The whole class!	
	Class	Class		
Y1 Elm	Y1 Fir	Y1 Lime	Y1 Maple	
Emaan	Reagan	Tracey	Harry	
Ashik	Emelia	Yusuf	Asrithan	
Y2 Aspen	Y2 Palm	Y2 Poplar	Y2 Rowan	Y2 Spruce
Mercy	Eva	Mariya	Kylie-Shae	Gabrielle
Evan	Abdul	Nitya	Cherish	Anaya
Y3 Cedar	Y3 Cherry	Y3 Larch	Y3 Walnut	Y3 Chestnut
Whole Class	Faaiz	Yathusha	Reilly	Thakshan
	Grace	Dhunvi	Zuzia	Fiza
Y4 Acacia	Y4 Beech	Y4 Hornbeam	Y4 Olive	Y4 Yew
Uri - Jay	Chu	Samuel V	Bilal	David
Azna	Devika	Caleb	Diaa	Mohammad
Y5 Cypress	Y5 Hawthorn	Y5 Magnolia	Y5 Silver Birch	Y5 Sycamore
Kajinan	Niha	Rohaam	Etana	Jayden
Sumaya	Ammar	Ethan	Niylah	Tatiana
Y6 Blackthorn	Y6 Eucalyptus	Y6 Juniper	Y6 Holly	Y6 Acer
Sara	Jacob	Calista	Nana	Zariah



# WEST THORNTON

## PRIMARY SCHOOL

Noorjahan	Jaathuri	Jason	Asya	Delilah
Spanish	KS1 PE	KS2 PE	KS1 Music	KS2 Music
Cherry and Chestnut class			AbdulKhadir Spruce	N/A